

15th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of new St Joseph's year 7 students,

Arrangements for Starting School at 9:00 am on Thursday 3rd September

First of all, welcome to St. Joseph's! Even though we are starting the new academic year in a different way to our normal arrangements, please be assured that your child can still look forward to five years of excellent education. From the very beginning, we will do everything possible to ensure every child really enjoys their time here and makes the most of all the opportunities on offer.

As you are aware, we have not been able to run an induction day for new students so far this year. For this reason, we have organised the start of next year to make sure that your child quickly gets to know the school building, their tutor, other key staff, and the rest of their tutor group. For year 7, school will start on Thursday 3rd September. Year 11 students will also be starting that day, but years 8, 9 and 10 will not be in school until Friday 4th September.

Before the first day – key points

- The uniform needed to start the year is black shoes, school trousers or skirt, white shirt and a school coat if needed. As we have not been able to sell blazers and other St. Joseph's uniform items, these are not needed until Monday 21st September to allow parents time to buy what they need.
- Please make sure your child has a pencil case containing at least a blue or black pen, pencil, ruler and eraser.
- Food at breaktime and lunchtime will be provided free of charge on both Thursday 3rd September and Friday 4th September. On the first day, students will be given a card that they can use to pay for their lunch when money has been put into their ParentPay account. Parents who already have children at St. Joseph's will know that it has been possible for students to pay using their fingerprints - this is currently turned off.
- Students are allowed to bring a packed lunch and their own snacks if they wish.
- The name of the tutor group your child is in has already been sent to you. If possible, please make sure your child knows this. Do not worry if they forget, though, as there will be plenty of staff ready to help them with this.

On the first day – start of the day

- Your child should arrive at St. Joseph's between 8:45 am and 9:00 am. There will be staff at the front of the school and in the car park to make sure that every child knows where they need to go.
- If you accompany them to school on foot, please leave them at the front gate to make their own way from there.
- If you drive your child to school, drive through the gates and go past the left turn that leads into the reception area car park. Continue up the side of the building and the drop-off area is there. Please do not get out of your car at this time.
- If your child comes to school on a bicycle, they can push it to the far end of the car park and lock it in the bike shed there.

On the first day – end of the day

- Your child will be finishing the day at school at 14:45 pm
- If you have walked to school to collect your child, please come into the front car park and wait there, keeping your social distance from other parents.
- If you are collecting by car, you can drive on to the site and collect your child in the same drop-off area that was used in the morning. Once again, please do not get out of your car.
- If your child has a brother or sister in year 11, and they will be walking home together, the year 7 child will be able to wait in the school hall until year 11 finish for the day.

After the first day – key points

- Please make sure you set up your child's ParentPay account and add some lunch money to it, so they are ready to buy food from Monday 7th September. Please note that children who are entitled to free school meals will receive £2.50 onto their lunch card each day from 7th September onwards.
- If your child is entitled to free school meals, and you have not yet received a voucher to buy uniform, please contact the school office and let them know by phoning 01793 714200.
- Using the uniform pop-up shop at the school, or by ordering online, please buy any items of uniform that your child needs. The dates and times for the pop-up shop will be sent to you as soon as possible.

The school fully restarts for all year groups on Friday 4th September, and we will be operating a different school day to our normal day. As you probably know, students at secondary school are working in 'bubbles' made up of one whole year group. The school needs to plan how best to keep the year groups apart throughout the day, and this means that the start times and finish times are different in different year groups. At the moment, we do not know how long it will be before we can go back to the normal times of the day.

In September, the times of the school day will be:

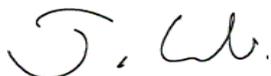
	<u>Year 9</u>	<u>Year 8</u>	<u>Year 7</u>	<u>Year 10</u>	<u>Year 11</u>
Start of day	8:30	8:45	9:00	9:15	9:30
End of Day	14:15	14:30	14:45	15:00	15:30

If more than one child from the same family comes to the school and they wish to walk together, they need to arrive at the start time for whichever child starts earliest. The child that starts later can wait in the hall until their year group starts lessons. At the end of the day, the child that finishes at the earlier time will then be able to wait in the hall until their brother or sister finishes. Please note that this is only possible for children from the same family, and students will not be allowed to wait for their friends in other year groups to finish.

Finally, please be aware that the Government is updating its advice to schools in August. If this update means that we need to change the arrangements given in this letter, we will write to you again at that time.

I hope that you all have a peaceful and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming your children to St. Joseph's in September, and to meeting you all as soon as possible. If you have any questions at this time, please feel free to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,



Jerry Giles – Head of School